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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/885,006	06/21/2001	Yutaka Ueda	160-360	3523

7590 09/25/2002

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EXAMINER

BOSS, WENDY L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1775

DATE MAILED: 09/25/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Applicati n N .

09/885,006

Examin r

Wendy Boss

Applicant(s)

UEDA ET AL.

Art Unit

1775

-- The MAILING DATE of this communicati n appears n the c ver she t with the correspondence address --

Peri d f r R ply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2,5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 6 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 6 and 12 contain the trademark/trade name Nomex. Where a trademark or trade name is used in a claim as a limitation to identify or describe a particular material or product, the claim does not comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. See *Ex parte Simpson*, 218 USPQ 1020 (Bd. App. 1982). The claim scope is uncertain since the trademark or trade name cannot be used properly to identify any particular material or product. A trademark or trade name is used to identify a source of goods, and not the goods themselves. Thus, a trademark or trade name does not identify or describe the goods associated with the trademark or trade name. In the present case, the trademark/trade name is used to identify/describe a type of paper the honeycomb core is made of and, accordingly, the identification/description is indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

4. Claims 1-4, 6-10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S.

Patent No. 5,688,353 (Dublinski et al.).

Dublinski discloses that honeycomb sandwich panels comprising a honeycomb core having a number of cells extending therethrough in a thickness direction of the honeycomb core; and a front surface layer and a rear surface layer provided on both sides of the cells in a thickness direction of the honeycomb core and closing openings of the cells, wherein at least one of the surface layers is made of a fiber reinforced plastic using a phenolic resin as a matrix, are well known in the art (see column 1, lines 43-64). In the honeycomb sandwich panel disclosed by Dublinski, the surface layers may be made of glass fiber or graphite (carbon) fiber reinforced plastic using a phenolic resin as a matrix (see column 5, lines 36-56). Dublinski further discloses that the honeycomb core may be made of a glass fiber reinforced plastic or Nomex (see column 9, lines 61-67). The reference also discloses that the honeycomb sandwich panel may be used in spacecraft (see column 1, lines 27-30).

5. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,251,497 (Hoopingarner et al.).


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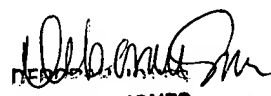
Hoopingarner discloses a honeycomb sandwich panel comprising a honeycomb core having a number of cells extending therethrough in a thickness direction of the honeycomb core (see Figure 3; and column 3, lines 57-62). The honeycomb sandwich panel disclosed in the reference also includes a front surface layer and a rear surface layer provided on both sides of the cells in a thickness direction of the honeycomb core and closing openings of the cells, wherein at least one of the surface layers is made of a fiber reinforced plastic using a phenolic resin as a matrix (see column 4, lines 14-22). It is also disclosed in the reference that each of the surface layers is made of at least a single layer (see column 4, lines 15-17). The reference also discloses that the surface layers may be made of glass fiber or graphite (carbon) fiber reinforced plastic using a phenolic resin as a matrix (see column 4, lines 15-22). Hoopingarner further discloses that the honeycomb core may be made of a light metal or Nomex (see column 4, lines 8-13). The reference also discloses that the honeycomb sandwich panel may be used in spacecraft (see column 1, line 15).

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Wendy Boss whose telephone number is 703-306-5922. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 8:30a-6:00p; 2nd F 8:30a-5:00p.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Deborah Jones can be reached on 703-308-3822.


Wendy Boss
September 18, 2002


DEBORAH JONES
SUPERVISOR